

If you are still having problems viewing this message, please [click here](#) for additional help.



Visit London What's New Press Briefing

November 2007

[Hotels](#) | [Attractions](#) | [Exhibitions](#) | [Events](#)
[Bars & Restaurants](#) | [Theatre & Film](#)



Highlights this month are the much anticipated re-opening of The London Transport Museum after massive redevelopment and the start of the Christmas build-up in London, with ice rinks gliding into town and the big switch on of the Oxford Street Christmas lights.

Hotels

Water, water everywhere with Claridge's new Water Menu

Claridge's has launched a new Water Menu. With a growing international guest list the hotel has become increasingly aware of requests for different kinds of water. Ever striving to be the best and to offer its guests the best choice available, Claridge's thoroughly researched the water market and now offers a choice of over thirty of the best waters in the world. Claridge's Water Menu will be available for its guests to choose from in November. All guests are also welcome to a glass or a jug of old fashioned London tap water, at any time, free of charge.

For more information contact [Gill Christophers](#) on +44 (0)20 7409 6444.

Exclusive packages for gastronomes

Le Cercle Restaurant, which is operated by the award-winning team from the Michelin-starred Club Gascon, has introduced two new packages exclusively for guests staying at Phoenix House. The 'Hire Your Own Le Cercle Chef' and 'The Ultimate Gourmet Stay' packages are perfect for food-lovers and travelling gastronomes. Phoenix House's luxurious serviced apartments are located within the same building as Le Cercle in the heart of Chelsea, just off fashionable Sloane Street. For more information contact [Helen Barnes](#) on +44 (0)20 7288 0800.

Winter Singer Season at the Park Lane Hotel

Jazz fans from across the capital will soon be able to enjoy live rhythm and blues accompanied by the soulful sounds of some of the finest jazz singers around as The Park Lane Hotel launches its winter Singer Season. Taking place from 10pm to 1am in the hotel's elegant Art Deco inspired Palm Court every Saturday night from the 3 November until the end of the year; the live singers are the latest addition to The Park Lane Hotel's ever popular jazz nights.

For more information contact [Helen Wilson](#) on + 44 (0)20 7290 7108.

Attractions

All aboard for the new London Transport Museum

London Transport Museum, one of the capital's most iconic cultural attractions, is set to reopen in November after a £22 million, two year redesign project. Set in the refurbished Victorian flower market in the heart of Covent Garden, the Museum is being transformed into a series of forward looking, 21st century galleries that will consider the future of London's transport as well as its past. With 25% more display space and a three-fold increase in the number of objects on display, the galleries will tell the story of the development of the city and its communities through the history of London's transport systems.

For more information contact [Sheerin Aswat](#) on +44 (0)20 7631 2666.

Oxford Street prepares for an Enchanted Christmas

The world-famous Oxford Street Christmas Lights will be transformed into a dazzling overhead canopy in celebration of the season and Disney's Christmas movie, 'Enchanted', a classic Disney fairytale with a modern twist (see main picture). The big switch-on will be at John Lewis Oxford Street on Wednesday 7 November as thousands will gather to see which world-famous celebrity will appear for the unveiling of Christmas in the West End. The evening's entertainment will

feature a live stage show high above the crowds, beginning at 5pm before the exciting switch-on moment at 6.17pm.

For more information contact [Delia Hyde](#) on +44 (0)20 7222 4345.

The Tower Ice Rink

Dust off your skates and prepare to hit the ice as the Tower of London ice rink returns for another year to the Tower Moat. With the impressive wall of this medieval fortress as your backdrop there is no better place to skate this festive season. Whether a seasoned skater or a first timer, it guarantees to be a memorable festive experience. The Tower Ice Rink will be open from 24 November to 13 January.

For more information contact [Amy Wright](#) on +44 (0)20 3166 6166.

Natural History Museum Ice Rink and Christmas Fair, presented with British Airways

Located on the east lawn of the prestigious museum, the Natural History Museum Ice Rink is a place to be spotted. The Christmas Fair will have something for everyone and the Café Bar offers a birdseye view of the ice in the ultra stylish surroundings. The Natural History Museum Ice Rink and Christmas Fair will be open from 8 November to 20 January.

For more information contact [Sarah Aiker](#) on +44 (0)207 292 8860.

The Ice Rink at Kew Gardens

One of London's most beautiful ice-rinks returns to Kew this year in its majestic woodland setting in front of the Temperate House, the world's largest ornamental glasshouse. This magnificent real-ice rink will be accompanied by the Ice Rink Café, where there will be warm drinks and festive snacks available, perfect for relaxing and watching the skaters. Forming part of Kew's Christmas Festival, the Ice-rink will be surrounded by lights and decorations, bell ringing at the weekend and Kew's huge Christmas Tree.

For more information contact the Kew Gardens [press office](#) on +44 (0)20 8332 5607.

The Ice Disco at The O2

The O2 will be livening up the winter months by hosting London's only Ice Disco. From 10 November 900 square metres of ice will cover The London Piazza within The O2, allowing as many as 250 skaters at one time to strut their stuff on the rink. With constant music, 40 mirror balls and disco lights this will be London's longest running temporary ice rink and will remain open until March. They'll be themed nights, a purpose built bar and viewing area to ensure the fun continues off the ice. Even better is the rink sits within The O2, so will not be affected by the unreliable British weather. For more information contact [Stephanie Jones](#) on + 44 (0)20 7536 1626.

Launchpad, new at the Science Museum

The largest free interactive science gallery in the UK reopens on 24 November with new exhibits which will allow visitors to launch a rocket, turn their head into a sound box and control a magnetic cloud. The new gallery will be a third bigger and will contain over 50 sophisticated interactive exhibits built specifically for the gallery. The interactives will be a combination of updated 'classics', world-firsts created by designers and technicians and new installations inspired by existing pieces previously unseen in the UK.

For more information contact [Kerry Law](#) on +44 (0)20 7942 4328.

New shuttle service set to take the hassle out of airport transfers

Travelling to the airport is about to get easier and cheaper from 1 November thanks to the National Express Group's new large-scale airport transfer service, dot2dot, running between Heathrow and Gatwick and Central London Hotels. The new dot2dot fleet of 64 purpose-built vehicles will be operated by the National Express Group, the leading UK transport operator, and is the UK's first large-scale airport shuttle service. With a maximum of four stops on any journey and from £17.50 per person for a single ride, the service aims to take the hassle out of getting to and from the airport with multiple journeys for an affordable price.

For more information please contact [Fiona Duthie](#) on +44 (0)20 3008 6280.

The Beauty Lounge: bespoke beauty, boutique style

The Beauty Lounge, known for sophisticated, high quality therapies and uniquely individual make up sessions has relocated to Kingly Court, the hip courtyard mall set just off Carnaby Street. This new home has the glamorous appeal of a 1940's Hollywood apartment suite. The reputation of The Beauty Lounge has been built by highly-experienced professional therapists who work in the media and beauty industry with a discerning client list which includes Sienna Miller, Paris Hilton, Girls Aloud, Sofia Coppola and Lily Cole.

For more information contact [Sarah Millar](#) on +44 (0)20 7287 9601.

New for London – Kids Eat FREE Card

Connect-Worldwide UK has launched a Kids Eat Free Card London. Featuring over 40 family-affordable restaurants and dining establishments in the capital, kids aged 11 and under can enjoy unlimited dining for FREE over a 90 day period. The Kids Eat Free Card can be purchased when booking a London break with Superbreak or through www.365tickets.com, and the dedicated Kids Eat Free Card web site www.kidseatfreecard.co.uk

For more information contact [Laurie Tilley](#) on +44 (0)845 092 0173.

Exhibitions

My Boy Jack at the Imperial War Museum

Imperial War Museum London is mounting the first exhibition to tell the full story of Rudyard Kipling's only son John who was killed in the Battle of Loos in 1915. The exhibition, which is free to enter, is being launched to coincide with the screening of ITV1's drama, My Boy Jack starring Daniel Radcliffe as John and David Haig as Rudyard Kipling. Rarely seen archive material being displayed will include the moving correspondence between Rudyard and John. A section of the exhibition will also display material from the ITV drama including John's uniform worn by Daniel Radcliffe.

For more information please contact [Victoria Main](#) on +44 (0)20 7416 5497.

'Cuban Pride' photography exhibition

La Casa del Habano, the Cuban bar and lounge in London's Soho, is hosting a photography exhibition called 'Cuban Pride' by Harriet Brocket. This new showing of 32 first edition photographs can be seen from 8 November to 29 February. 'Cuban Pride' was born from a trip that Harriet took to Cuba in March 2007 and gathers images that reflect different aspects of this country, the people and culture. Shot in colour, the collection is a stark contrast to the black and white images of Cuba that are often seen.

For more information contact [Alpana Deshmukh](#) on +44 (0)20 7716 7893.

London, Sugar & Slavery

To celebrate the opening of London's only permanent gallery to explore the city's involvement in the transatlantic slave trade, on 10 November the Museum in Docklands has an exciting line up of theatrical storytellers, captivating speakers and live music with free entry all weekend. Don't miss Alex Pascall and Ellen Craft who will be weaving their way through the Museum with their tales of London, sugar and slavery. Poet and hip hop artist Dean Atta will be introducing the first screening of a collection of Video Art Postcards produced by local teenagers from the Borough of Newham. Enjoy the sounds of the Aubrey Bryan Steel Combo as they play for your listening pleasure and relax with a delicious rum punch.

For more information contact [Stacey Witter](#) on +44 (0)20 7814 5511

Events

50 Cent to play The O2

After recent speculation about his future plans, 50 Cent has announced that he will perform at The O2 as part of an 8 date UK arena tour. His appearance at The O2 on 10 November will see him perform tracks from his newly released album 'Curtis', including the Timbaland produced hit single 'Ayo Technology' featuring Justin Timberlake. Tickets are on sale now and available via www.theo2.co.uk and the 24-Hour hotline +44 (0)871 230 4422.

For more information contact [Stephanie Jones](#) on + 44 (0) 20 7536 1626.

Festive treats come early at the Spirit of Christmas Fair

The Spirit of Christmas Fair, taking place at Olympia, from 7 to 11 November, showcases all of the essential ingredients for a wonderful Christmas. The fair will exhibit the best Christmas products, including everything from arts, crafts and gifts to food and drink. The Guild of Fine Food stand, supported by Food from Britain, (FFB), will be on hand to provide fantastic food and drink from all over the UK.

For more information contact [Kate Bell](#) on +44 (0)20 7240 2444.

BBC Good Food Show London

This year's BBC Good Food Show at London Olympia promises to be even better than ever with its brand new theatre, the Ultimate Cookery Experience and with celebrity chefs including James Martin and Rick Stein live on stage. Also new this year is the Dining Experience with 12 of London's most prestigious restaurants giving visitors the opportunity to sample some of the capital's outstanding cuisine and find the perfect drink to match each dish from an extensive selection of exhibitors. The show takes place from 16-18 November.

For more information contact [Emma Davis](#)

Bars & Restaurants

First birthday at The Soho Revue Bar

The Soho Revue Bar is to celebrate its first birthday in style by bringing glamour back to the West End with The Soho Divas Revue, a spectacular cabaret show featuring acclaimed and award-winning stars including West End and Broadway star Caroline O' Connor, acclaimed Las Vegas vocal impressionist Jimmy James, and singers Marcella Detroit, Natalie Williams and Zee Asha. The Soho Divas Revue runs for four nights from 8 to 11 November.

For more information contact [Jacinta Francis](#) on +44 (0)20 7255 8611.

Alain Ducasse at The Dorchester

Opening in mid-November, Alain Ducasse at The Dorchester is destined to be one of London's most exciting restaurants. Seating approximately 80 guests, it will be located in a light and elegant room with a contemporary design overlooking Park Lane and Hyde Park. Alain Ducasse at The Dorchester will offer modern but refined French cuisine, as interpreted by Executive Chef Nicola Canuti and Sous Chef Bruno Riou.

For more information contact [Maureen Mills](#) on +44 (0)20 8947 4474

Le Café Anglais opens in W2

5 November will see the launch of Rowley Leigh and Charlie McVeigh's new flagship, Le Café Anglais. Named after the greatest Parisian restaurant of the nineteenth century, Le Café Anglais was founded in honour of the peace treaty between England and France in 1815. The new restaurant will operate from a landmark, elevated site with its own exclusive entrance and lift at 8 Porchester Gardens, with views across the rooftops along Queensway to the park. Seating 170 people in 'affordable luxury', Le Café Anglais promises to be the one of the finest dining rooms in London.

For more information contact [Maureen Mills](#) on +44 (0)20 8947 4474.

New restaurant, number twelve

Number twelve, a new, modern European restaurant and bar has just opened at 12 Upper Woburn Place. With head chef Santino Busciglio looking after the kitchen the restaurant aims to offer a sophisticated yet accessible dining experience in an area well located for both the West End and the new Eurostar terminal at St Pancras station.

For more information contact [Gaby Riley](#) or [Caroline Davy](#) on +44(0)20 7722 5466.

Theatre & Film

'The BFG' comes to the Polka Theatre

A production of Roald Dahl's 'The BFG' is to be the Christmas show in the main house of Polka Theatre this year, running from 9 November to 9 February. The show is directed by Polka Associate Director Roman Stefanski, who honed his puppetry skills on 80s satire Spitting Image, and created by the team behind Polka's 2004 production of another Dahl classic, 'James and The Giant Peach'.

[Read more](#)

'Hedda Gabler' at the Greenwich Playhouse

One of Henrik Ibsen's most popular of plays, 'Hedda Gabler', will make a welcome return to the Greenwich Playhouse in a production by the Galleon Theatre Company. The play which was condemned during its time for its exposé of 19th century bourgeois morality, will run from 6 November to 2 December.

For more information contact [Alice de Sousa](#) on +44 (0)20 8858 9256.

Tom Conti stars in 'Romantic Comedy' at the Richmond Theatre

The glamour of Hollywood comes to Richmond this autumn, as both the author and the star of 'Romantic Comedy' are Oscar nominated for their comedy work. British theatre favourite Tom Conti returns to Richmond Theatre at the very top of his comedic form in 'Romantic Comedy', a hilarious show about love, marriage and fate, playing from 5 to 10 November.

For more information contact [Melissa Gerbaldi](#) on +44 (0)20 8939 9228.

New ENO production of Aida Opens at The London Coliseum

A new ENO production of Aida opens at the London Coliseum on 8 November and will run in repertory until 6 December. Zandra Rhodes, one of Britain's best-known fashion designers will make Aida her first UK production. Zandra, who put London at the forefront of the international fashion scene in the 1970s is no stranger to opera, having designed The Magic Flute and The Pearl Fishers for San Diego Opera.

For more information contact [Anthony McNeill](#) on +44 (0)207 845 9433.

'La Cage aux Folles': new production at the Menier Chocolate Factory

Following the huge success of its past two sold-out, hit Christmas musicals 'Sunday in the Park with George' and 'Little Shop of Horrors', the Menier Chocolate Factory is delighted to announce that this year's Christmas extravaganza will be 'La Cage aux Folles'. Tickets are selling extremely fast for the show which previews in November and will run until March.

For more information contact [The Corner Shop PR](#) on +44(0)20 7494 3665.

The 'Importance of Being Earnest' at the Richmond Theatre

Richmond Theatre patron Penelope Keith will be starring as the infamous, magnificently imposing Lady Bracknell - a nanny with a dubious story about a handbag, in 'The Importance of Being Earnest' at Richmond Theatre for one week only from 19 November. A brilliantly scathing critique of

society's manners and morals, this delicious confection of mistaken identities, long lost brothers and frustrated romance is a brilliantly polished and ravishingly elegant theatrical gem.

For more information contact [Melissa Gerbaldi](#) on +44 (0)20 8939 9228

Chickenshed presents 'A Christmas Carol'

Chickenshed, the now world-famous theatre company, which has pioneered the practice of inclusive theatre will be performing 'A Christmas Carol' from 28 November to 12 January. This unique adaptation of the classic novel will transport you back to Victorian London to witness the transformation of Scrooge from tight-fisted to big-hearted, accompanied by the well-loved Cratchit family, a spectrum of ghosts and a host of colourful London characters. This cast of hundreds, original music and spectacular dance will mean there's not a humbug in sight.

For more information contact [Susan Jamson](#) on +44 (0)20 8 351 6161.

© Visit London 2007. All Rights Reserved.

[Feedback](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Become a Visit London Partner](#)

"Visit London Limited" is registered in England under No.761149;

Registered Office: Visit London, 2 More London Riverside, London SE1 2RR.